

Appl. No. 10/041,783
Amdt. dated January 31, 2006
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure
Examining Group 2155

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Upon entry of the present amendment, which amends claims 1-9, 11-14, and 16-22, claims 1-23 remain pending. Claims 1, 3-8, 10-16, and 18-23 are allowed. The specification and claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 13, 16, and 21 are objected because of minor informalities. Claims 2, 9, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Informalities in Specification

The specification has been amended to overcome informalities. Applicants earnestly thank the Examiner for providing suggested amendments, which have been adopted.

Informalities in Claims

Claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 13, 16, and 21 have been amended to overcome informalities. Applicants earnestly thank the Examiner for providing suggested claim amendments, which have been adopted with one exception. Specifically, in claims 6, 13, and 21, the term "LOCAL" has been changed to an alternative term and thus no longer requires substitution using the term "local."

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 2, 9, and 17 have been amended to overcome the rejection under § 112. As amended, these claims no longer recite any terms that lack proper antecedent basis. The amended claims are thus believed to overcome the rejection.

Allowed Claims

Claims 1, 3-8, 10-16, and 18-23 have been allowed. A number of these claims are presently amended to further clarify the invention. These amendments do not remove any claim limitations that provide allowability over the cited prior art as pointed out by the Examiner. Thus, it is believed that claims 1, 3-8, 10-16, and 18-23, as amended, remain allowable for the same reasons stated by the Examiner.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,


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